

# Feed the Future: Innovation Lab for Integrated Pest Management

## Trip report

**Country Visited:** Kenya

**Dates of Travel:** July 21 to 28, 2018

**Traveler's Name and Affiliation:** R. Muniappan, Director, IPM Innovation Lab

**Purpose of Trip:** To attend the Grains IPM for East Africa project annual review and planning meeting and to visit maize farms to collect FAW egg masses to check for parasitoids.

**Sites visited:** Nairobi, Nakuru, Kaba Scheme (Machagos), and Mwea.

**Dates traveled:** July 21 – 28, 2018.

### **Description of Activities/Observations:**

July 21: I left Blacksburg at 8.30 am.

July 22: Reached icipe guest house in Nairobi, Kenya at 11.00 pm.

July 23: 8.00 am: Peter Malusi, Jeremiah Ojude and I traveled by car to Kaba Scheme in Machagos. We visited Mr. Alfred Malonza Kitonyi's maize field, which was heavily infested with Fall Armyworm. We collected over 100 egg masses of FAW and carried them to the icipe laboratory. In the evening, I scanned the egg masses and placed them in gelatin capsules. While scanning, I found one adult *Trichogramma(toidea)* parasitoid parasitizing eggs of FAW.

July 24: The Grains IPM for East Africa project planning meeting members traveled to Nakuru to observe push-pull technology being implemented. Over 150 farmers of the Bahathi sub-county participated in the event. We visited four maize fields set up with *Desmodium* and *Bracharia*. Farmers expressed their happiness in adopting this technique as the *Desmodium* (legume) and *Bracharia* (grass) increased the fodder value in addition to controlling stem borer and improving soil fertility. The adoption rate of the push-pull technique in this region has been steadily increasing. In 2018, over 400 farmers practiced this technique.

July 25: 8.00 am: The IPM IL Grains IPM for East Africa annual planning meeting started and continued for the whole day (program attached). At 2.30 pm, Tadele Tefera, Dely Gapsin, Lusike Wasilwa and I met with Dr. Segenet Kelemu, Director General of icipe.

July 26: Grains IPM for East Africa annual planning meeting continued until noon. In the afternoon, participants traveled to the icipe labs where biological control activities were progressing.

July 27: Tadele Tefera, Dely Gapsin, Peter Malusi, Patrick Kigo and I traveled to Mwea to collect FAW eggs. We collected over 1500 egg masses. In the evening, Peter Malusi found a dead adult specimen of the parasitoid *Telenomus* sp. in the FAW egg masses collected.

I left Nairobi at 11.59 pm via Kenya airways flight.

July 28: I reached Blacksburg at 7.00 pm.

Attached is the agenda of the Annual Review and Planning meeting.



Annual review &  
planning meeting 201